

partnering countries at the unit level where the mission is executed.

America's strategic challenges, including a pivot to the Pacific region that has more than 70 countries and more than 100 regional and national languages, will generate additional requirements for language and put additional strain on the current capacity for skilled foreign language analysts, Foreign Area Officers, military intelligence personnel, and attachés. We must meet the demand and respond proactively.

Madam Chair, again, I am appreciative of the committee's support of foreign language capability and cultural understanding in the military and look forward to working with them in the future to ensure our military is resourced to meet the strategic demands of the future.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2013

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1960) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2014 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Chair, I am here to ask that you support my amendment requesting the Secretary of the Army to review and provide a report on the Medal of Honor nomination of Captain William L. Albracht of Moline, Illinois.

Many, including the Vietnam Veterans of America, strongly believe that after reviewing all of the documentation that the Silver Star is not commensurate with Captain Albracht's actions during the five days of the siege of Firebase Kate in South Vietnam.

It is the belief that the Army performed a cursory review of the nomination, given the length of time between Captain Albracht's heroic actions and his initial Medal of Honor nomination.

Forty-three years ago, Captain Albracht, then a 21-year-old Green Beret, was in charge of a U.S. military evacuation at Firebase Kate.

Captain Albracht's strong leadership, calm under extreme duress, and care for countless other soldiers was exemplary. He was responsible for saving 150 lives.

Outnumbered 40-to-1 and vulnerable, conditions grew more dire. Albracht took shrapnel to the arm. The wound easily could have landed him aboard one of the last medevac helicopters that dared approach Firebase Kate.

But he chose to stay.

He led these 150 men off the base, despite being wounded, surrounded and constantly targeted by the enemy. After long nights, Captain Albracht's escape plan worked.

After arriving safely at a nearby outpost, word came that there would be a ceremony to honor their heroic actions. A helicopter was

sent to pick up Captain Albracht, despite poor flying conditions that had grounded many other aircraft.

Upon arrival of the helicopter, Captain Albracht noted that there were several wounded soldiers who could not be airlifted due to weather conditions. He told the aircrew of his helicopter to get the men to a hospital. Giving up his seat caused him to miss the ceremony. His actions went unrecognized for four decades.

Others under Captain Albracht's command and guidance were awarded Silver Stars for their actions that day. However, Captain Albracht was not recognized for leading his soldiers to safety through the dense Vietnamese jungle while repeatedly facing extreme enemy fire.

Many believe that every man at Firebase Kate would have died if not for Captain Albracht. There was no one else capable of calling in an airstrike and no one there capable of inspiring these men to follow him into that jungle.

This is why I am requesting that the Army review and provide a report on why Captain Albracht's heroic actions and Medal of Honor nomination was downgraded two levels.

RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTION OF THE AGA KHAN FOUNDATION'S CHICAGO PARTNERSHIP GOLF OUTING

HON. BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 14, 2013

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Aga Khan Foundation (AKF) an outstanding charitable endeavor that helps battle poverty across the globe, and I am proud that AKF will hold its 2013 Chicago Partnership Golf Outing in Illinois's Tenth District.

In total, nearly 1.4 billion people live in extreme poverty. As our world continues to evolve, develop and grow more interconnected, this reality becomes ever more evident, increasingly more unacceptable. The AKF, through remarkable global programs and incredible individual generosity, fights to empower people in every corner of the planet.

As the global upheaval of the last few years continues, it is imperative that we remain engaged with the world and actively lead in trying to improve it. Times of change offer the chance to alter the course of history, and the AKF is not pulling back from this moment, but rather is embracing it.

Every dollar raised for the Chicago Partnership Golf Outing goes directly to AKF charitable projects, with no money toward administrative costs. This steadfast commitment to its founding ideals has led the AKF to the forefront of the fight against poverty.

Recently, the AKF launched an initiative to empower the war-torn people of Mali. Its dedication to working in some of the most dangerous, devastated regions of the world is both noble and inspiring. For those who need its services most, the AKF has been willing and able to step up and make a difference.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor this special organization, and I wish them great success now and in the future.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS A. ROSS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2013

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1960) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2014 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Chair, I rise today to thank Chairman McKEON and Ranking Member SMITH for their hard work on this important legislation, and to speak in support of my amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act.

My amendment is very simple and straightforward—it would prohibit the Department of Defense from using taxpayer funds to provide additional or upgraded recreational facilities for detainees at U.S. Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

I cannot help but remember that the federal government wasted \$750,000 last year to build a recreational soccer field in Guantanamo Bay for detainees. I thought it was a ridiculous idea then, and I think it is a ridiculous idea now.

At a time when we have an out-of-control backlog of Veterans claims pending a decision—taxpayer funding was wasted building a soccer field for terrorists?

At a time when the President's Administration is proposing to drastically raise TRICARE fees on service members and their families—\$750,000 were spent to improve the recreational facilities for terrorist detainees?

At a time when we can't give seniors a fair cost-of-living increase in benefits?

Or at a time when families across the country are making tough cutbacks in their own budgets, we're building soccer fields in Cuba?

Guantanamo Bay is a detention facility for terrorists captured on the battlefield or apprehended actively planning to do harm to Americans.

As such, Guantanamo Bay should not be a place of comfort; rather, it should house the world's most dangerous terrorists in a humane way, providing only the bare essentials.

Our Founding Fathers made it clear that the federal government has no higher duty than to "provide for the common defense."

Rather than balancing the budget on the backs of our military, Department of Defense employees, seniors, and families, Congress should prevent wasteful projects like this—period.

Once again, I want to thank the Chair and Ranking Member for their work on this legislation, and encourage my colleagues to join me in passing this fiscally responsible amendment to ensure taxpayer's funds are not used to construct or upgrade recreational facilities for terrorist detainees.